



Town of Cheswold
Minutes of the Monthly Town Council Meeting
691 Main Street
Cheswold, Delaware 19936
Tuesday – September 7, 2021
5:00 p.m.
Council Members Only

ZOOM Teleconference

1-929-205-6099 Meeting ID: 9728359352#
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9728359252>

The following persons were in attendance in person:

Mayor Santo Faronea
Secretary/Treasurer Theon Callender
Councilperson Maxwell Amoako

The following person was in attendance via phone:

Vice Mayor Michael Wysong

The following persons were excused:

Councilperson Judith Johnson
Councilperson Mark Moxley

The following person was in attendance via ZOOM:

Thomas Wilkes, P.E., Town Engineer

The following persons were in attendance in person:

Police Department: Chief Chris Workman
Administration: Town Clerk Shadina Jones-
Public Works: Code Enforcement Office Mike Callender

NOTICE:

Notice of this meeting has been made in accordance with the Delaware Open Meeting Act, by properly posting it on December 30, 2020, on the Town of Cheswold website at: <http://cheswold.delaware.gov>. Copies of the agenda were posted outside the Cheswold Town Hall; in the local Post Office; at the Fox Pointe Management Office and on the Official Web Site for the Town of Cheswold, at <http://cheswold.delaware.gov>; and was filed with the Clerk of the Town of Cheswold on August 23, 2021. Copies of the agenda were available for pick-up at the Town Hall.

MEETING:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Faronea at 5:04 pm.

PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE and MOMENT of SILENCE

The Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence immediately followed the opening of the meeting.

PROPERLY POSTED: At the request of the Mayor, Ms. Callender noted that the meeting posted was properly posted on August 23, 2021.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Faronea requested Ms. Callender to call the roll. And with three (3, members of the six (6) person Council available, Ms. Callender presented a quorum to the Mayor and the meeting continued.

REVIEW of AGENDA

Mayor Faronea requested the Council review the accuracy of the agenda and for a motion to accept as presented or to make changes and amendment requests as needed.

Councilperson Callender made a motion to amend the agenda, as a result of not having all members of the Council present, to review and address only those items requiring immediate attention, those items being:

- Item 9b – Introduction and Vote of Hiring of Recruit .Police Officer Brendon Peters
- Items 15 - Executive Session
- Item 16 - Return from Executive Session
- Item 17 – Vote on Discussion from Executive Session, *(if required)*
- Item 18b – American Rescue Plan *(Discussion of Potential Project Expenditures)*

Vice Mayor Wysong made a second to the motion and with a unanimous vote of the Council the motion passed.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Item 9b – Introduction and Vote on Hiring of Recruit Police Officer Brendon Peters

Chief Chris Workman introduced Mr. Brendon Peters as the candidate selected to fill the open recruit position within the Police Department.

Mr. Peters is a member of the U.S. Air Force and has re-located here from Boston, Ma. He has passed all the pre-employment requirements and is scheduled to attend the Delaware State Police Academy on October 4, 2021, at 5:30 am.

Chief Workman provided the opportunity for the Mayor and Council to question or conversate with Recruit Peters. Councilperson Callender asked the Recruit why he became interested in Cheswold. Recruit Peters responded that his interest stemmed from the Department being small and because the Department displayed interest in him.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – *“continued”*

Councilperson Callender made a motion to approve the hiring of Recruit Police Officer Brendon Peters and a second to the motion, as submitted, was made by Councilperson Amoako. There was a unanimous positive vote on the motion and it passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item 15 -

Councilperson Callender made a motion for the Mayor, Council, Town Engineer, Police Chief, and Town Clerk to move into an Executive Session for the purpose of preliminary discussions on site acquisitions for any publicly funded capital improvements, sales or leases of real property, as specified by §10004 of Section (b)(2) Open Meetings of Title 29 General Regulations for State Agencies – Chapter 100. Freedom of Information Act.”

The participants moved into the Executive Session at 5:15 pm.

RETURN from EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item 16 -

The participants returned to the regular session from the Executive Session at 5:28 p.m.

VOTE on DISCUSSION from EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item 17 –

After input on property cost, from Vice Mayor Wysong, a motion was made by Councilperson Callender to purchase a property known as MAP ID 4-03-04600-01-1400-00001, for no more than \$50,000 in a cash payment, by September 30, 2021. Councilperson Amoako made a second to the motion, as submitted. A roll call vote of the Council resulted in the passage of the motion.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

Item 18b – Discussion of Potential Project Expenditures

Ms. Callender presented the following potential projects for review by the Mayor and Council to decide which projects should be considered as applicable for expenditures from the American Rescue Plan funds. The Council made decisions individually for each project as shown following the project description.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN – “continued”

(1) Code Red – Health & safety notifications – requires an Attorney Review

Chief Workman will investigate services and associated costs of such program types. Ms. Callender will follow-up with reviewing possibility of using ARPA funds.

(2) Park/Community Garden – Health Benefits – requires an Attorney Review

The Council desires to use funds for these projects. It appears at this time, that the project is ineligible. Further research to be conducted by Ms. Callender.

(3) Cost of Officer Re-Hire – Authorized (See Frequently Asked Questions 4.8

“Example of how Fiscal Recovery Funds can be used to address public safety: in all communities, recipients may use resources to re-hire police officers and other public servants to restore law enforcement and counts to their pre-pandemic levels.”

It has been determined that the funds may be used to re-hire or hire police officers to bring Police Department to our pre-pandemic level.

Ms. Callender made a motion to approve ARPA funds to hire a police officer to restore our Police Department to its pre-pandemic level of four, (4), full time officers. A second to the motion was made by Councilperson Amoako. A roll call vote of the Council passed the motion unanimously.

(4) Water Extension Project in Old Town – Authorized (See IFR – Pg. 67)

Ms. Callender informed the Mayor and Council that the Interim Final Rule approves water projects that were planned or started prior to March 3, 2021, provided that the project costs covered by ARPA funds were incurred after March 3, 2021. Therefore, the proposed project to extend the water line from Commerce St. north to Main and then west on Main Street to West Street will be covered by the ARPA funds. The water extension project is approximately 1,000 linear feet and should cost approximately \$200,000, \$100,000 is the balance of the original fire hydrant water project.

She then made a motion to approve the expenditure of ARPA funds for the extension of the water project, as specified above. Vice Mayor Wysong made a second to the motion, as submitted and it passed with a roll call vote of the Council.

(5) Participation in Hiring NEU Attorney Proposal

Ms. Callender explained to Mayor and Council that the State is proposing to hire an attorney who would provide support to all Towns who are willing to participate cooperatively in the expense. The benefit is lower cost for subject matter expertise.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN – *“continued”*

(5) Participation in Hiring NEU Attorney Proposal – *“continued”*

Ms. Callender made a motion that should a proposal be passed to hire a attorney willing to provide ARPA questioning services to a cooperative of Towns that funds from the Cheswold ARPA being used to participate in the acquisition of such services. Councilperson Amoako provided a second to the motion, as submitted, and without questions, the motion passed with a roll call vote.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS:

Nothing to Report

COUNCILPERSON COMMENTS:

Vice-Mayor Michael Wysong – *NOTHING to REPORT*

Secretary/Treasurer Theon Callender – *NOTHING to REPORT*

Councilperson Maxwell Amoako – *NOTHING to REPORT*

MAYOR FARONEA'S COMMENTS – *NOTHING to REPORT*

Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made by Councilperson Callender seconded by Councilperson Amoako to adjourn at 5:42 p.m. A roll call vote on the motion resulted in a unanimous vote to approve. The meeting adjourned immediately thereafter.

Submitted by: Secretary/Treasurer Sam Callender – September 14, 2021